

JAN 15 1987

Dr. Chester R. Richmond
Associate Director
Biomedical and Environmental Sciences
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
P.O. Box X
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Dr. Richmond:

Responsibility for Project Indalo was transferred from the Office of Operational Safety to the Office of Nuclear Safety in June of 1986. Following this action, Robert W. Barber, Director, Office of Nuclear Safety, requested that Mary L. Walker, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health be briefed on this project. This briefing was conducted on September 15, 1986.

The briefing and associated discussion dealt with the history of the project and the current radiological situation. As a result of this briefing, there are several questions that need to be considered:

- a) What are the potential health effects for people in the area? In particular, what is the situation for the individuals with the highest committed effective dose equivalents?
- b) How similar is the contamination at Palomares to other areas contaminated with plutonium?
- c) Is there any problem with the food crops grown in the area?
- d) Is the current effort adequate?
- e) Should further remedial action be taken?

We have recognized in the past that, periodically, the Indalo effort should be evaluated and the need for continued support reviewed for Department of Energy (DOE) management to guide future decisions. Such a review is needed now. It is requested that the group of advisors on Indalo be convened to provide DOE with advice on this subject. Please provide a schedule for this review.

Incidentally, I have recently transferred to the office of Safety Policy. The operational function for this project, however, will remain in the Office of Nuclear Safety (ONS). While I will continue to follow this project in the interim, Mr. Michael Marelli, Health Physicist, Health Physics branch, ONS, will eventually assume the lead role. Accordingly, please provide copies of all future correspondence to Mr. Marelli, EH-331.2.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance for this project.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

T. F. McCraw
DOE Project Officer
Project Indalo

EH-35

Vallario

1/ /87
EH-33

Barber

1/ /87

EH-30

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